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National Reform and Kingdom Building

By R. H. MARTIN, D.D., Editor

(Published by request)

We are God's fellow-workers: Ye are . . . God's building . . . as a wise master builder I laid a foundation. "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians III:9-12.

This Scripture teaches us that we as Christians have the honor and privilege of being fellow-workers with God in the accomplishment of a great task. What this task is is all important.

One of the great needs of the Christian world in our day, is an understanding in all its length and breadth and depth and height, of what God sent Jesus Christ down to this earth to do. Did He send Him only to get as many passengers as possible off the world-ship into the life-boats to pull for the Heavenly shore before the ship goes down? Or, did He send Him, as well, to put the ship in charge of a crew who would take their orders from the Captain of the world's salvation and thus save the world-ship? Did He send Him only to regenerate individuals, build them up in Christian character and get them ready for a better life beyond? Or, did He send Him, as well, to regenerate human society, to rebuild it according to a divine ideal and plan, and thus save the world in the totality of its life?

The Scriptures teach He was sent to do both. What was Jesus' conception of the work He was sent to do? It was to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus announced, "The Kingdom of God is at hand." All through His ministry He rang the changes on the Kingdom of God. It was the center around which all His preaching and teaching revolved. He mentions it more than a hundred times; in contrast, He spoke of His

Church not more than three or four. He taught His disciples to "Seek first the Kingdom of God", and to pray daily, "Thy Kingdom come". The establishment of the Kingdom of God sums up in its entirety the mission of Christ to this earth.

It is all important for us to know this, for Jesus at the close of His ministry said to His disciples, "As my Father hath sent me, so send I you". How can we be fellow-workers with God and Christ in establishing this Kingdom unless we have a true conception of what the Kingdom is?

In our text, the Kingdom is set forth under the figure of a building. "Ye," Paul says, "are God's building." He also says that He and His fellow-Christians are builders of the Kingdom. "We are God's fellow-workers".

Let us consider the carrying forward of this great enterprise in which we are workers together with God.

The Foundation

In the erection of a building, the first thing to be attended to is the foundation. We Christians were not fellow-workers with God in laying the Foundation of His Kingdom. God laid the foundation long before the human race came into being. Read the account of the Day of Judgment in Matthew 25: "Then shall the King say unto those on His right hand, come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the **Kingdom** prepared for you **from the foundation of the World.**"

Back in the eternities, looking forward to man's creation, his fall, and the redemption to follow, God laid the foundation for this Kingdom of God.

This is a truth we would do well to ponder. When God created the physical universe, He

also created the laws by which it was to be governed. These laws were not imposed upon it from without. They were written into the very structure of the universe. And they are **unbreakable**. When God created man, a moral being, God also created the moral laws for his government. These laws, likewise, were not imposed upon him from without, but were written into the constitution of man's being and into the constitution of the human race. And these laws are **unbreakable**. No man, no combination of men, no nation, no combination of nations can break them. Man is a free moral being. He can live as if these moral laws of righteousness, justice, truth, mercy and love had no existence; he can violate them, but by so doing, these laws will **break him**, he cannot **break them**.

Look back over the history of the human race. What do we see? One civilization after another rising to great power and glory—the Assyrian, Babylonian, Grecian, Roman and down to the German of our day, and every one of them have gone down. One conqueror, oppressor after another have, likewise, risen to great power—Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, the Kaiser, Hitler and Mussolini—and they have gone down. Why? These civilizations and these conquerors built on other foundations than that which God laid. They defied these moral laws of righteousness, justice, humanity and brotherhood which God has written into the constitution of the moral universe. They dashed themselves to pieces against God's moral order. It stood. They went down.

And so will every conqueror, every civilization that builds upon injustice, oppression and cruelty, go down. This is a truth we need today to quiet our fears and strengthen our faith as we face a Godless communism, which in violation of these basic laws of God's moral order is out to bring the whole world into subjection to itself. It will fail as certainly as all like oppressions have failed in the past. "The Foundation of God Standeth sure".

So much for the foundation which God laid.

Now for the erection of the building on this foundation in which we Christians are fellow-workers with God.

The Erection of the Building

Manifestly to work in cooperation with God in its erection, we must know what the building is as a whole, in its parts and in their relation to each other.

What is this Kingdom of God? It is the Kingdom over which Christ is the ruler. As to the extent of His rule, it includes everything on this earth. "His Kingdom ruleth over all". As to its character, it is a spiritual Kingdom. Its basic laws are the laws of righteousness, truth, mercy, love. As for its citizens, they are recruited from the world of man-

kind. They enter the Kingdom through regeneration and by faith in Christ and repentance of sin.

These reborn persons are the materials from which the Kingdom is built, and they also are God's fellow-workers in building it.

What is God's program in building His Kingdom?

First: We are God's fellow-workers in bringing individuals out of the world into His Kingdom. This is personal evangelism—individual Christians at work upon unregenerate individuals, seeking their regeneration and acceptance of Christ as their Savior, and their building up in the Christian life.

But this is only the beginning of God's program for Kingdom building. Most of our work in Kingdom building is done by us in cooperation with other Christians and largely through the three organizations of human society—the Family, the Church and the State. These institutions are to be kingdomized and used as agencies in building the Kingdom.

Second: There is the family.

It is a divine creation as truly as the individuals that constitute it. "God sets the solitary in families". According to His law, it is to be constituted by one man and one woman joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. When so constituted and when His laws and spirit rule in the family life, in the relation of its members to each other, the family as an institution, is a member of the Kingdom of God and becomes a most effective agency in building the Kingdom.

But this is not all. There is another institution which in God's program has a very large part in building His Kingdom.

Third: The Christian Church.

It also is a divine creation and built on Christ as its foundation just as the individual Christian is built on Him. In this organization, Christians are associated with each other in Kingdom building. Its mission and the laws by which it is to be governed are so clearly and fully set forth in the Scriptures, and so well understood, that they need not be enlarged upon here. It is the greatest of all institutions in God's program for building His Kingdom. Nearly all our individual work in Kingdom building is done in cooperation with others in this institution—in evangelism, in home and foreign mission work, in the preaching of the Gospel and the instruction of the people. It would be impossible to carry forward the work that is being done by the Church apart from organized and cooperative efforts of its members. The Church as an institution is a great Kingdom builder.

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Gambling Cheats Everyone

Rev. J. Renwick Patterson, D.D.

Gambling cheats everyone who practices it. The professional operators and the racketeers may not realize it as they gather in their ill-gotten gains, but it cheats them too. "For what is a man profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" The theme strikes at the philosophy of getting something for nothing. That urge leads some 45% of the people of this country to participate in gambling in one or more of its forms. But these 50,000,000 gamblers are pursuing a will-of-the-wisp, for gambling, instead of getting something for nothing proves far more effective as a means of getting nothing for something. The fact is, you can't win. The ratio of all gambling devices is set up against the person who plays.

John Calvin, in commenting upon Ephesians 4:14, comes upon the Greek word "kubēia" which he translates "cunning," for as he says, **"the word is taken from players at dice, who are accustomed to practice many arts of deception."**

An Authority On Gambling

Dr. Ernest E. Blanche is considered one of the nations leading mathematicians. In his professional capacity he is Chief Statistician for the Logistics Division of the Army General Staff. For the past twenty or more years he has, in his private capacity, been making a first hand study of the techniques of gambling and the foibles of the gamblers. He is perhaps America's foremost authority on gambling. He knows all about mathematical probabilities, the problem of odds, the element of chance and gambling shenanigans. It is his studied conclusion that, "there aren't any two ways about it. You can't win at gambling. Every mature person should know that. There are some fifty million Americans who don't seem to know it or, at least, don't seem to realize it."

You can secure Dr. Blanche's book "YOU CAN'T WIN" for two dollars from the Public Affairs Press, 2153 Florida Ave., Washington, D. C. In this book he deals with facts and fallacies about gambling. He shows how sooner or later every system breaks down and fails. Even so-called skill games, when employed for gambling purposes, are "fixed" so that even the most skilled players cannot beat the game. Mathematical probabilities are always against the better. The element of chance has very little to do with most gambling games, for as Calvin says above, the gambler is "accustomed to many arts of deception." It is a fact that gambling always has been and always will be crooked business. The odds are inevitably against the dice tosser. The Kefauver committee found that the "take" at one crap table

alone in Florida in 1949 was over \$600,000. The roulette operator is ahead of the game even before it starts. There is every reason to believe that carnival wheels are invariably "fixed". The only man at the race track who is sure of making money is the operator. The numbers racketeers are known to get from 46% to 55% of all the money wagered by the public. The card "sharper" has a score or more of tricks at his disposal by which to deceive the amateur. Punch boards take in more than twice the amount they pay out, and so far as chain letter and Pyramid Club schemes go—you have only one chance in two thousand of getting any money back from them. Most of the Irish Sweepstakes tickets sold in this country are counterfeit.

The Players Are "Suckers"

Careful investigation has brought the above facts to light, yet in the face of them the gambling racketeers have been able to play the public for "suckers" to the extent of some twenty billions of dollars a year through illegal gambling operations alone, to say nothing of the additional money that changes hands through so-called "legal" gambling and private games and wagers.

The Senate Crime Committee brought to light the fact that gambling in the United States was controlled largely by well organized syndicates operating nation wide and across state lines, and that these syndicates were controlled by racketeers and notorious "Gang" leaders who had working agreements with one another. These racketeers have little respect for law, life or property and they have succeeded in corrupting many of our public officials and in some areas have succeeded in gaining almost complete control of law enforcing agencies. These syndicates would not have been established had not so many Americans joined hands with them by participating in their gambling operations and by playing at their gambling tables.

Gambling Is Wrong

Every thinking citizen and certainly every Christian ought to realize that gambling is wrong, even if we can't point to a specific reference in God's Word which says in so many words, "Thou Shalt Not Gamble." The Eighth Commandment says, "Thou shalt not steal." It should not be difficult for an intelligent person to observe that gambling holds about the same relation to stealing that dueling holds to murder. The Bible does not pretend to deal with every particular sin that man may commit, but it does deal with principles which are to be used in

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RENWICK H. MARTIN, D.D. Editor

REV. J. RENWICK PATTERSON, D.D. Assistant Editor

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Is. 9:6.

In His name we of the National Reform Association wish to convey our greetings and best wishes to our many friends in the hope that peace and good will may be yours now and forever.



The temperance forces within the nation have been greatly alarmed for a number of years at the manner in which the liquor crowd have been invading the sacredness of Christmas. Christ belongs in Christmas, but liquor has not such right.

In the effort to drive home this truth, the National Temperance League has designed a red and black stamp having the legend, "Let's put Christ into Christmas," for use on Christmas cards, packages and other mail. An enlargement of the 1" x 2" stamp is shown above. They are put up in sheets of 50 stamps each. Prices are as follows:

Quantity	Price	Approx. Shipping Weight
1 sheet	\$.25	
100 sheets	5.00	2 pounds
500 sheets	\$20.00	9 pounds

Address: Clayton M. Wallace, Executive Director
National Temperance League, Inc.
131 Independence Ave., S.E.,
Washington 3, D. C.

A FITTING CHRISTMAS GIFT

Most people present gifts to others as Christmas remembrances. There is a rising protest against the secular observance of this sacred day. One way to counteract this secularization of the day, would be to send as your Christmas remembrances, gifts that would honor Christ and advance his cause. One such gift would be the book, "Our Public Schools—Christian or Secular" by Dr. Martin. This would be a most suitable book to send to your pastor, public school teachers and superintendents, school board members and others interested in having the Bible given its rightful place in our public schools in which 25,000,000 American youth are being educated.

Send us your orders for copies of this book for this use. They will be filled promptly. The cost is \$2.00 per copy. Address: National Reform Association, 209 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

A.M.A. TO DROP TOGACCO AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ADS

Starting January 1, 1954, all cigarette, tobacco and alcoholic beverage advertising will be dropped from all publications of the American Medical Association.

The action was taken by the association because "A large number of physicians interviewed expressed their disapproval" of such advertising.

It is a blot on the record of the A.M.A. that it ever permitted such advertising to appear in its publications. To carry such ads implies endorsement by the A.M.A. of the use of such drugs.

Congratulations to those physicians who, by expressing their disapproval, caused this action to discontinue such advertising to be adopted.

J. R. P.

CHRIST AND CHRISTIANITY IN NATIONAL LIFE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The National Study Conference of the National Council of Churches on "The Churches and World Order" held in Cleveland the first of November and attended by 400 delegates and visitors, as reported in the United Presbyterian by its editor, Dr. Raymond L. Edie, took high Christian ground in a message adopted for submission to the churches of its 30 cooperating denominations for study. One section introducing its report on the United States and Collective Security contained the following paragraph:

"The God who is at work in the world is the Redeeming Lord of all men and nations and the Source and Judge of all power. All nations, therefore, are ultimately responsible to God for the ordering of their affairs and for the exercise of the power which they have. Apart from this responsibility there is no adequate foundation for the security and freedom, the justice and peace, which many nations now so earnestly seek."

The closing message of the entire conference adopted without debate contained the following statement with respect to Christian standards by which the nation should live and be guided in its relation with all other nations, and the duty of Christians to witness this truth to the nation:

"As Christians we are called upon to remind the nation of God's truth that 'he who loseth his life shall find it.' Only by going beyond self-interest shall we serve even this interest fully. The service of the welfare of the whole human community is not a violation of our national interest, but rather is essential to our wellbeing as a nation. Men and nations are dependent upon one another. We need the strength which flows from generous cooperation and mutual criticism. Our national interest must be defined in terms broad enough to include the rights, needs and interests of other nations and peoples, including those we count as hostile. Christians, as members of a world-wide brotherhood, are in a special way the guardians and bearers of this witness."

90TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 90th Annual Meeting and dinner of the National Reform Association was held on Thursday evening, November 19, 1953, in the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, at Highland and Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Seventy-five persons were present for the splendid turkey dinner which was served at 6:30 p.m., and for the meeting which followed. Rev. Frank H. Lathom, D.D., pastor of the College Hill Reformed Presbyterian Church and member of the Board of Directors, was the toastmaster of the evening and kept things moving in spritely style. The invocation was offered by Rev. W. W. McKinney, Ph.D., pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Ambridge, Pa.

A number of solos were sung by Mrs. Edward P. Schatz, soloist of the Edgewood Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. She was accompanied by Mrs. Walter L. Moser.

Miss Pat Johnston represented youth, giving her speech on "Life Is Worth Living", with which she won the National Grand Diamond speech contest of the National W.C.T.U. in St. Louis this past summer.

Dr. R. H. Martin, President of the Association, presided during the brief business meeting of the Association.

Mr. Frank H. Davis, President of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, presented the report of the nominating committee, recommending the re-election of the following seven of the nine members of the Board of Directors whose terms expired with this meeting: Rev. Frank H. Lathom, D.D., Rev. John H. Gerstner, Ph.D., Rev. D. H. Elliott, D.D., Mr. J. Ramsey Cutler, Mr. K.

M. Young, Mr. E. C. Young, and Mr. Chester R. Fox.

Two members of the Board elected for the same term to complete the full twenty-seven members required were: Rev. Paul A. Ackert of the Arlington Evangelical United Brethren Church, and one other to be elected by the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

The Treasurer's report was read by the Treasurer, Mr. K. M. Young, and was accepted.

Rev. W. W. McKinney, Ph.D., Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, read the report of the committee, which was adopted. The resolutions will be found in the January, 1954, issue.

Rev. J. Renwick Patterson, D.D., Executive Secretary, spoke briefly and informally on the Association's program and outlook.

This completed the business meeting portion of the evening's program.

After group singing of America, the address of the evening was given by Rev. John Calvin Reid, Ph.D., pastor of the Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church. The title of his address was "Wise Men from the West". It was a very splendid message with the finger pointed at the typical alcoholic beverage advertisements during the Christmas season and how they are represented as gifts most highly prized and desired. The wise men of the East brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. How different the gifts our generation places high on the list when men think of men. We hope to publish this message in a later issue of the Statesman.

The closing prayer and benediction was offered by Rev. Raymond L. Edie, D.D., Editor-Manager of "The United Presbyterian."

It was an inspiring evening in every respect. The weather was most favorable, and the program was uplifting. We came away with a determination to carry on with renewed zeal the work of the National Reform Association to the Glory of God and the betterment of our society. J. R. P.

ANNUAL MEETING SOUTH CALIFORNIA BRANCH

The Southern California Branch of the National Reform Association which has changed its name to the "California Christian Citizens Association," held its annual dinner meeting at the Los Angeles Reformed Presbyterian Church, 3557 Fletcher Drive, on Friday evening, November 20, 1953, where 71 persons attended the dinner and about 100 the meeting which followed in the sanctuary.

Three new members were added to the Board of Directors. They are: Charles Schreiber of Reseda, Walter Blount of San Bernardino, and Elmer G. Russell of Los Angeles.

The address of the evening was given by Dr. Bob

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Polygamy Rears Its Ugly Head In The West

On July 25th, of this year, the State of Arizona staged a raid upon the village of Short Creek in a wild and almost inaccessible region located on the borderland between Arizona and Utah. Warrants were served upon 36 men and 86 women—all but a half dozen of the adult members of the community.

As far back as 1860, Brigham Young, the great leader of the Mormons, had sent his scouts to explore this wild region. Its settlers were polygamists, and from that day to the present the practice of polygamy has never ceased in Short Creek. Judge Faulkner of Arizona made some investigation of conditions in Short Creek and reported the same to the Governor of the State. The Governor obtained an appropriation from the State Legislature to make further investigations. The F.B.I. was sent in and on the basis of their findings, the wholesale raid was made. The charge against the group was conspiring against the State—the counts including adultery, bigamy, rape, etc., etc. The men were separated from their polygamous wives and landed in jail. Later bonds were filed for their release and they were freed from jail. Their case will go before the courts.

It has come to light that not only at Short Creek but at other places in Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and in Mexico and Canada are other groups of "Fundamentalist Mormons," who are still practicing polygamy.

Immediately following the Short Creek raid, the daily papers all over the country reported it, but a much fuller report is given in the November 13th issue of *Colliers Magazine*, not only from the State of Arizona's point of view, but also from the leader of the polygamists in Short Creek—Edson Jessop. His long article in *Colliers*, in which he tells his own

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Shuler, Jr. of Trinity Methodist Church.

Plans are being formulated to hold annual conferences in the cities in which members of the Advisory Council reside. The book "God in our Public Schools" is going to be widely distributed to key people throughout the state in furthering the cause for the reading of the Bible in the public schools of California.

The Pittsburgh office is supplying these books free of cost to the Southern California group for this purpose.

This arm of our work in Southern California is functioning well and its workers are to be congratulated for the splendid manner in which the cause of National Reform is being advanced on the west coast through their efforts.

J. R. P.

story and defends his practice of polygamy, is most revealing. We glean the following from his story. It opens with these words: "I am thirty-four years old. I have five wives and 20 children . . . I am living a celestial marriage, which is the law of God."

"Plural marriage," he says, "runs strong in my family. My great-grandfather was one of those early polygamists who served time in the Utah State Penitentiary. I am next to the oldest of 33 children, my mother had 26 brothers and sisters."

He tells the story of how he came by his five wives. After he married his first wife, "they came to realize that something was lacking in their existence. After much prayer and study of the Scriptures, they came to see that the only way to live the Gospel spiritually was to live it physically which the church had not done since 1890, when Mormon President Woodruff issued the manifesto outlawing polygamy." Then he tells how he added four more wives and that "Altogether he has 20 sons and daughters of whom the eldest is twelve and the youngest four months."

It is a well known fact that the Mormon church taught, and many of its members practiced polygamy in violation of the Federal law against it, until 1890; that many of their polygamous leaders were arrested and imprisoned, others went into hiding and others escaped to Mexico, and that the property of the Mormon church, which had large investments in mining, agriculture, etc., etc., was confiscated by the Government. In 1890, the heads of the Mormon church made a contract with the United States Government to the effect that the church would outlaw polygamy and cease to practice it on condition the polygamists would be released from prison and the property restored to the church. This is known as the Manifesto by President Woodruff, outlawing polygamy.

This, polygamist Jessop declares to have been a departure from the faith by the leaders of the church and that the Manifesto did not set aside the decree of God establishing polygamy. We quote his words:

"No mortal can set aside the decree of God. The Manifesto was not a revelation but a political agreement between the heads of the church and Congress. If plural marriage was once commanded of God, it is still commanded of God. The church had apostatized and gone against the commandment, but that was no excuse for us to do so."

Then follows the most significant paragraph in Jessop's story. He quotes the revelation authorizing polygamy, set forth in Section 132 of "Doctrines and Covenants" which is practically the Mormon Bible:

"If any man espouse a virgin and desires to espouse another, and the first gives her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then is he justified. And if he has ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery . . . for behold! I reveal unto you a new and everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not in that covenant, then are ye damned, for no one can reject this covenant and enter into my glory."

What is this glory? It is the glory into which polygamists can enter, declares Jessop:

"All Latter-day Saints believe that as we are now, God once was and that as God is now we may become. That is, perhaps thousands of years from now. Each of us may become a God, and under the direction of our Savior, each may create and populate his own world . . . To enter into Godhead, we must live all the laws of the Gospel—and to us the law of the Gospel includes plural marriage."

"We have taken our wives in good faith," declares Jessop. "We will fight the State of Arizona with all our strength. We shall never give up."

While the head of the Mormon Church issued the Manifesto outlawing polygamy in 1890, and the heads of the Church claim to have enforced it, it is passing strange that this Section 132 in their book, "Doctrines and Covenants" still remains in the book, as the revelation of God authorizing polygamy. We have copies of this book in our National Reform

office, published by a Mormon publishing company long after the Manifesto of 1890.

We still face a serious situation on this polygamy issue in our country.

GAMBLING CHEAPS EVERYONE

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governing human behavior, and there are Scriptural principles which leave no room for doubt on the matter of gambling. It is contrary to the Law of God. It leads to all sorts of vicious practices. "By their fruits ye shall know them." By this pragmatic test gambling is out. The fact that a person voluntarily assumes the risk involved does not justify the act. You would not agree that Russian roulette is justifiable simply because a person is willing to take the risk. It is still suicide if he loses, and I am sure if he does win he will still have to answer to God for taking the risk.

Someone has said there are two times when one ought not to gamble. One is when he can't afford it, the other is when he can. Michael MacDougall, gambling investigator and columnist, closes an article on "What Every G. I. Should Know About Gambling" which appeared in a popular magazine some months ago with these words: "These are three rules I recommend, any one of which will be a big help. If all three are followed faithfully, I guarantee no dice wolf will ever devour your savings: Rule 1: Don't gamble with strangers. Every stranger isn't a crook but every crook is a stranger. Rule 2: Don't gamble for high stakes. Rule 3: DON'T GAMBLE."

NATIONAL REFORM AND KINGDOM BUILDING

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Fourth: The State or Nation.

It also is a divine creation. "All nations whom thou has made shall come and worship before Thee". Christ is the foundation on which it is to be built. Of Him the prophet Isaiah says, "The government shall be of His shoulder. . . . Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end". The laws for its government are found in the Bible and the ends it is to serve. When a nation builds on this foundation and directs its life, brings its laws, institution, customs and policies into line with the principles and laws of Christ, the nation becomes the **political expression** of the Kingdom of God, and an effective agency in building the Kingdom. We would then have the complete program of God—the individual Christian, the Christian family, the Christian church and the Christian State—working together harmoniously in Kingdom building.

But if the State is outside the Kingdom—its laws, institutions, customs, policies un-Christian in

character—the nation is a mighty obstacle in the way of Kingdom building. The regeneration and conversion of the nation to Christ is, therefore, a matter of first importance in building the Kingdom of God on this earth.

National Reform Association's Mission

Here is where the National Reform Association comes in with its contribution to Kingdom building. Its field is not that of **individual** evangelism but of **national** evangelism. Briefly stated, its purpose is the Christianizing of our national and governmental life.

Its program is determined by the actual situation we face with respect to our nation. Is it within or without the Kingdom? Christian or non-Christian? Certainly our nation has a Christian background. There are many Christian features and customs in our national life. Many of our laws accord with the laws of God. Our legislative assemblies are opened with prayer, our government en-

graves on its coin "In God we trust," it frees religious property from taxes, supports chaplains in our prisons and armed forces, summons our citizens to their sanctuaries on Thanksgiving Day, to some extent makes use of the Bible in public education, and makes wide use of the oath in our Courts and in the induction of public officials. Basing its pronouncement on these and other Christian features, the United States Supreme Court in 1892, declared, "This is a Christian nation".

But over against this, there are many decidedly un-Christian and immoral things in our national life; such as the legalized liquor traffic, legalized gambling, a score or more of scandalous divorce laws for the separation of husband and wife as over against Christ's one cause; the Bible and religion in large measure excluded from public education, political corruption and other evils entrenched in the life of the nation.

What a hindrance these iniquities are to the work of the Church in building the Kingdom of God; 4,000,000 alcoholics, their lives wrecked physically, mentally and spiritually for time and eternity by the legalized liquor traffic; a secular public education secularizing American life faster than the Church is Christianizing it.

How our Association is undertaking to meet this situation is set forth in its charter: **"The purpose of the National Reform Association is the maintenance and promotion in our national life of the Christian principles of civil government."**

It is laboring to maintain these Christian features against the attack of enemies, to uproot and destroy these public evils, and to supply ("promote") those Christian features that are lacking. It is doing this by the proclamation and application of the Christian principles of civil government—God's message to the nation, its rulers and citizens which constitute no small portion of the Bible—to the nation as such to bring it to repentance and the acceptance of Christ as its Savior and King, and in applying this message to the moral problems which the nation is constantly facing, such as those mentioned above.

An Educational Task

Basically this is an educational task. Many even of our Christian people have little knowledge of these Christian principles of civil government, some do not even know they are in the Bible. They must be instructed in them, and, beyond this, led to believe them and to carry them out in their citizenship life. This is a great Christian task, especially in our democracy. If we were a monarchy, it might be accomplished by reaching the king and heads of government, but not so in a democracy where the people, under God, are the rulers. With us, it in-

volves the acceptance and building up of a strong public sentiment for these principles in the minds and hearts of the citizens of the nation. Public sentiment and conviction of a controlling majority of the citizens is an all-essential. In performing this task, our main effort is to be focused, not upon the officials at Washington, but upon the citizens back in the home districts. It is a grass-root program. There is no magical or short-cut way of accomplishing it.

The enactment of laws, statutory and constitutional, has a not unimportant place in this program, but to be effective, these laws must be the outgrowth of a strong public sentiment to back up and make possible their enforcement. When any law bearing on moral issues goes far ahead of public sentiment, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to enforce it. The 18th Amendment to our Constitution is an example. The building up of a strong public sentiment to Christianize our national and governmental life and the expression of that sentiment in statutory and constitutional law is the goal of our Association's efforts.

Note the claim Paul makes for himself—not only that he, with God, was a builder of the Kingdom, but that he was a **wise masterbuilder**. He envisaged the Kingdom in all of its completeness and God's program in building it, including the part the nation is to have in its building. He proclaimed God's message to the nation. Read his classic on Civil Government in Romans, chapter 13.

How greatly the world today needs masterbuilders like Paul and wise masterbuilding of the Kingdom.

When young Victoria was crowned queen of the British Empire, at a point in the Coronation ceremonies a trained choir sang Handel's great oratorio, "The Messiah". In the rendition of this oratorio, it is the custom for the audience to stand while the Hallelujah Chorus is sung. The Queen's ladies in waiting had instructed her that as queen she should remain seated in her Chair of State, but when the Hallelujah Chorus swept to its climax in that magnificent burst of song, "King of Kings and Lord of Lords", the young queen, disregarding her instructions and defying the etiquette of the Court, humbly rose and bowed her crowned head, thus declaring that she was a loyal and devoted subject of the King of Kings.

The National Reform Association by its proclamation and application of Christ's gospel to the nation is laboring to the end that one day the citizens and rulers of our nation will come forward and lay the crown of this nation's sovereignty at the feet of Him who is the Savior-King of nations as He is of men.